

A RESOLUTION  
2005-17-16  
OF SUPPORT FOR A "FAIR AND EQUITABLE" FINANCE  
SYSTEM FOR TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

\* \* \* \* \*

**WHEREAS**, inequities in the Texas public school finance system date back over a century and it is only in the last five decades that significant efforts have been undertaken to remedy the system; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1949, the state of Texas established the Minimum Foundation Program, a formula by which 80 percent of funding for public schools in Texas came from the state and the rest of the funding came from the local level and it allowed local school districts to fund above the calculated state level; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result, litigation ensued and *Edgewood ISD v. Kirby* held that students in poor districts received an inferior level of education compared to students who lived in wealthy school districts and by 1989, the courts had ruled the Texas system of financing public education was unconstitutional; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1990, the Texas Legislature approved a new educational funding system, only to see it ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of Texas later that year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature enacted a law, dubbed the "Robin Hood" plan, in 1993 that required school districts above a certain wealth level to transfer property tax revenue to poorer school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, ten years later, the Legislature established education finance as the top priority for the state, ensuring that no later than September 1, 2005, the Texas Legislature would have replaced the current funding system; and

**WHEREAS**, in April 2004, Governor Rick Perry called a Special Session of the 78<sup>th</sup> Legislature to address public school finance and this session ended without any agreement as to school finance reform; and

**WHEREAS**, in October 2004, the Travis County District Court ruled the current system of public school finance unconstitutional; and

**WHEREAS**, school finance reform has commanded the spotlight during the current 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, where lawmakers remain locked in discussion on how to balance lowering property taxes with increased school funding, and while the House has approved

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04/21/05  
Item #38

its version of school finance reform, senators continue deliberations on their own legislative proposal; **NOW THEREFORE:**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:**

**SECTION 1.** The City Council hereby supports efforts to see that a "fair and equitable" school finance system is adopted during the 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session of the Texas Legislature.

**SECTION 2.** The City Council resolves that mere adequacy in school financing falls short of its equitable expectations, that equity in our public schools is of grave importance and that all means and capabilities of establishing equity should be explored. All Texas students deserve equal opportunity to learn with the same quality of facilities, materials and instruction, as provided for in the Texas State Constitution which guarantees "an efficient system of public free schools."

**SECTION 3.** The City Council of the City of San Antonio affirms that fruitful discourse and cooperation on behalf of all Texas students will occur only when partisan differences are set aside and the best interests of all Texas children become a priority to the Legislature. As such, the City Council implores the Legislature to approve a school finance system that is fair, compassionate and equitable among all socioeconomic backgrounds, so that funding our schools is not a burden that is borne by one economic sector of our state, but instead is a responsibility shared by all Texans.

**SECTION 4.** This Resolution shall be effective on and after the tenth day after passage hereof.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2005.



M A Y O R  
EDWARD D. GARZA

ATTEST:

  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: \_\_\_\_\_

  
for City Attorney

# Agenda Voting Results

**Name:** 38.

**Date:** 04/21/05

**Time:** 05:08:53 PM

**Vote Type:** Multiple selection

**Description:** A Resolution of support for a "fair and equitable" finance system for Texas public schools.  
[Presented by Christopher J. Brady, Assistant City Manager; J. Rolando Bono, Interim City Manager]

Voter	Group	Status	Yes	No	Abstain
ROGER O. FLORES	DISTRICT 1	Not present			
JOEL WILLIAMS	DISTRICT 2		x		
RON H. SEGOVIA	DISTRICT 3		x		
RICHARD PEREZ	DISTRICT 4		x		
PATTI RADLE	DISTRICT 5		x		
ENRIQUE M. BARRERA	DISTRICT 6	Not present			
JULIAN CASTRO	DISTRICT 7	Not present			
ART A. HALL	DISTRICT 8		x		
CARROLL SCHUBERT	DISTRICT 9		x		
CHIP HAASS	DISTRICT_10	Not present			
MAYOR ED GARZA	MAYOR		x		